

**Prison Action News
PO Box 832
Watertown, MA 02472**



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Prison Action News is a newsletter for prisoners worldwide to report on their struggles and acts of resistance from behind bars. All submissions must be **RECEIVED** by **January 1st or July 1st** and be in compliance with the guidelines below. Please note that we retain the right as editors to alter submissions for grammatical and content-related issues. Prison Action News is one part of the multi-faceted Prison Abolition movement. We believe that the writing in Prison Action News is as important as poetry or political essays, but is often less represented.

History:

The idea for Prison Action News came out of the 2007 Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) Network gathering. We wanted to create a venue for prisoners to share updates of their activities, similar to the updates we wrote in the network newsletter. As people on the outside, we can facilitate this dialog of prison resistance, and help our comrades stay informed about the inspiring actions others are taking. We accept submissions from prisoners and prison groups worldwide, and bilingual writing. With your help this newsletter will be a success - if you know of resistance taking place that is not represented here, please send us a submission, and spread the word!

Please send ALL SUBMISSIONS, SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS and ADDRESS CHANGES to:

Prison Action News PO Box 832 Watertown, MA 02472
prisonactionnews@riseup.net

Artwork (above): Santos "Cherrie" Valenzuela, Delano, CA

"All is for all! If the man and the woman bear their fair share of work, they have a right to their fair share of all that is produced by all, and that share is enough to secure them well-being. No more of such vague formulas as "The Right to work," or "To each the whole result of his labour." What we proclaim is "The Right to Well-Being: Well-Being for All!"



Peter Kropotkin - The Conquest of Bread (1907)

The US Department of Justice to the rescue- September 2016

Hello once again. I don't know how many people in TDCJ are familiar with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, but they need to seriously become a "friend to the prisoner...and your family and friends on the outside."

I learned through MIM that you can write and ask for a "Texas Grievance Pack." In this packet there is a lot of valuable information: A few of the government codes, I shared in the last volume (p. 60); there are also PD-22s in these PD-22 (officers' rules) there are some that are followed by Texas Penal Codes. These Tex. Pen. Codes are in fact subject to criminal charges (3rd degree felonies). There are specific instructions on how, where one may file an official complaint with the District Attorney's office of the county in which you are assigned. Our "brothers" in white, namely at Polunsky, informs us of addresses that better address important issues.

Now, for the U.S. DOJ special litigation section- Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Attorney General's office has assigned a Federal investigation number for TDCJ. They have been conducting an ongoing federal investigation on TDCJ for violations of constitutional rights. You can send them witness statements of your own experiences or what you have knowledge of. Send in grievances, bogus disciplinary cases, etc. (be reasonable and organized). On the top of every page you submit you must put the assigned case # 168-74-0, somewhere (preferably on the first page) you must write, "I would like to see a federal investigation conducted on TDCJ for violation of prisoners' constitutional rights." You must also put full name, TDCJ# and unit- it stays confidential. Don't write about your trial or anything of that nature. This is about after you're confined in the rusty razorwire!

These guys do listen! TDCJ is required to actually supply toothpaste (don't complain it's ADA), they got us toothbrushes with a little bit of a longer handle. Oh how 'bout "hot" meals for the G4s and G5s out at McConnell Unit back in 2013! Amongst other things, we are beginning to hear about. We need to all also push the issue of instead of all the budget cuts affecting medical TDCJ/UTMB (CMC) needs to terminate, not relocate the medical providers that continue to dismiss our serious medical needs and killing off our brothers and sisters in white. Okay, so maybe off-white. Take a stand for your rights and don't depend on the other "prisoner" to do it!

Until next time, peace!

L.L.
From Texas- TAZ

I am asking everyone to ask their family, friends and religious leaders on the street to support these organizations. Also tell them that unity is the key, without unity little or nothing will change!!!!

“With public sentiment, nothing can fail.
Without it, nothing can succeed.”
-Abraham Lincoln

Never Again!!!!
Robert S. Tabak



Women's March, L.A. - 1/21/17

Guidelines

1. A submission **MUST NOT** exceed 500 words, with no exceptions. Submissions over 500 words will be edited down, or this is not possible to do while keeping a cohesive narrative, not included in publication.
2. We will not accept submissions with racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive language.
3. An update may be a report on resistance activities of individual prisoners or prison groups (this can include, but is not limited to, radical book groups, hunger strike, general strike, letter writing campaigns, etc.).
4. A report **SHOULD NOT** be a political essay or a report on prison conditions, rather, the response and resistance to these conditions.
5. Requests for support from folks on the outside, or requests for financial support, will not be published. The primary audience and readership of PAN is incarcerated people.
6. PAN accepts entries of artwork and illustrations.
7. One submission per group, per prison, per newsletter. If you submit more than once during the submission period, editors will select which entry to publish, unless you specifically state which one to use.
8. We will not report on gang activity.
9. We accept bilingual entries (when one language is English), as well as Spanish entries! *Aceptamos la escritura en español.*
10. Entries may be submitted for publication by prison groups and organizations, or individuals, and may be submitted for publication with the name and contact information of the writer, or anonymously, to protect their identity. If your name and address appear on your PAN submission, we will publish them, unless you tell us otherwise.

Please note that we are a very small collective made up entirely of volunteers. We are unable to provide any assistance or advocacy beyond the publication of this newsletter. Unfortunately this also means we cannot respond to every letter we receive. We always try to inform writers if their submission does not fall within our guidelines so they can resubmit.

Prison Action News **CAN** accept donations of stamps or envelopes, but can **NOT** accept checks or money orders.



Table of Contents

New Prison Groups and Programs

The Freedom Through
Art Underground, CA, p. 4
The Phoenix Group Initiative, IL, p. 6
Prisoners United of
Silicon Valley, CA, p. 7
The Rangers Defense, MO, p. 9

Prison Group Updates

United Panther Movement,
Red First Alliance, CO, p. 10

Direct Action/ Non-Compliance

Asylum Seekers Riot on
Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, p. 11
Birmingham Prison Riots, England, p. 12
Correction Officers
Evacuated from Unit, MA, p. 13
Letters from the Kinross
Prison Uprising, MI, p. 14
Milwaukee, WI:
Hunger Strike News, p. 19
Mothers at US Immigration
Center on Hunger Strike, PA, p. 21
Prison Strike Organizers to
Protest Food Giant Aramark, AL, p. 23
Salena A. Rodriguez, MD, p. 26
Why Prisoners Across the
Country Have Gone on Strike, p. 27

The Almighty Pen and Paper: Grievances and Legal Work

Good-Conduct Time Initiative, TX, p. 28
Chris Hannigan, VA, p. 28
Jailhouse Lawyering, CA, p. 29
Daisy Meadows, NV, p. 30
Skyylar Alexxys Munk, MO, p. 31
A New Hope, PA, p. 32
No Rules of Engagement, OH, p. 32
Lance Reberger, NV, p. 34
Duane Tipten, NV, p. 36
Two WI Prisoners Seek Sanctions, p. 37

Solidarity: Working Across the Bars

Bloomington, IN: Prison
Strike Retrospective, p. 39

Commentary and Calls to Action

Anonymous, TX, p. 41
David Duran, TX, p. 42
Mark Guth, NV, p. 43
A Recourse of Resistance, OH, p. 43
Robert S. Tabak, MO, p. 45
The U.S. Department of
Justice to the Rescue..., TX, p. 47

January 28, John F. Kennedy
International Airport, Thousands
protest Trump's Immigrant Ban



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The content of the PAN newsletter is intended solely for information and education. Descriptions and claims appearing in PAN have not been independently verified and should be considered unsubstantiated. Moreover, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the perspective of any individual involved in its content or production. Likewise, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of any recipient or of any individual or group mentioned in PAN. This newsletter in no way encourages or supports any illegal behavior. PAN only intends to provide a printed forum for conversation and news. We regret if any PAN entry or passage is misconstrued as a violation of state and/or federal regulations.

Charleston, MO - October 2016

I have great news for everyone. The Georgetown Law Journal Annual Review of Criminal Procedure (ARCP) and several other departments within the Georgetown University are working together to provide a useful guide for prisoners searching for legal aid and assistance services. This guide will become available soon. Contact them to find out about that at:

Office for Journal Administration - ARCP
600 New Jersey Ave NW
Washington DC 20001
office : 202-662-9457/Fax 202-661-6680
criminalprocedure@law.georgetown.edu

A very big problem in this country is that prisoners have a problem practicing their religion. In the past I worked with Norm Toller 1108933 and our Jewish and Muslim friends inside and outside of prison to implement a Kosher Diet in the prisons in Missouri.

If you are Jewish and are having a problem practicing your religion, contact:

Rabbi Menachem M. Katz
The Aleph Institute
9540 Collins Avenue
Miami FL 33154-7127
305-864-5553
Fax 305-864-5675
www.aleph-institute.org
Email: info@aleph-institute.org

If you are a practicing Muslim and you are having a problem practising your religion, contact:

Kareem Abdur Raheem
IMAM ALI Center
55-11 Queens Blvd
Woodside NY 11377

If you are a Christian and you are having a problem practicing your religion, contact:

Prison Fellowship Ministries
PO Box 17500
Washington DC 20041
703-478-0100
correspondence@pfm.org
www.pfm.org

I invite the reader to follow suit. Deprogram yourselves of the state embedded thoughts of submissive control. Rid yourselves of the psychological ploys set in place to divide, conquer, and keep complete domination. Join hands, bare arms, and resist this disgusting state injustice. Defeat, to the state, shall be handed. Even from behind enemy lines. Sever the depressive discouragements that persistently whisper submissive surrender. Erase this despondence, eradicate yourself from this dread. Delete the destructive mentalities that accompany these restrictive quarters. Instead, replace it with the visions of victory. As it is ours to establish as the front lines on this perilous war. Follow suits and suits shall follow. Lead by examples, actions and make examples by actions as you lead.

It is not about you nor I, but all of us. Every single captive prevailing against these state scoundrels and their oppressive inflictions. Relinquish the subconscious control this state maintains with chains and unite as one. Apply no dications to selections in diversity, as you defraud the crusade of its true potentials with allied oppositions. Every able body is required in our battles against this state you dare decry.

I advise all ye who receive and read from the dark depths of the infamous Lucasville Dungeons, from a cage confined on cruel captivity, take heed to my suggestions and encouraging words of attack, as victory is ours for the taking. And so I intrude upon you to begin the crusade of relentless resistance in any and every design. Enlist every method and means as a formidable convoy of attack!

Do remember my comrades in arms, that all disgruntled state reprisal remain as solid confirmation to the effectiveness of your assault and support of your resistance. Do not fail nor succumb to the state scoundrel's dirty reprieve. No my faithful and worthy comrades. Instead, utilize this retaliation as a driving force to motivate and advance forward.

Do remember that no victory in war came without sacrifice and the shedding of blood, sweat, and tears.

Until next time

Sempre Avanti
Ostinato Ricore

I leave you in peace and accord

Ohio Prisoners United

The Twisted One
Twisted Tex
Jeremy P. Gallant
No 624-283 - SOCF
PO Box 45699

NEW PRISON GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

The Freedom Through Art Underground - September 2016

My name is Mike Allison. I'm incarcerated at Chino Prison in Southern California. I'm not an artist at any level but, since 2009, have put into motion a detailed plan to show the work of prison artists through my online gallery. It is slowly coming along and I named my effort "The Freedom Through Art Underground." For the moment it is held under the umbrella of a 501(c)(3) called the Freedom Through Art Foundation or "FTAF." I've built a pair of websites: one for the foundation (ftaf.simdif.com) [editor's note, as of printing website is inactive]; the gallery itself is not yet online. The latter was built using a 2003 copy of MS Publisher and is over 1000 pages in length. While built to accommodate inmate artists the world over, I have focused on filling in just the state prisons in the US so it can launch ASAP.

I've run into a bump, however, in that I need the names of state prisons for Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the rest of the "W" states. Once I have that information I can add it to the platform then have it sent to the company that is willing to host it. I hope you can help.

In the meantime I've been asked to introduce another site that is currently accepting inmate art from prisoners. Its name is eh4p.simdif.com or ehel4prisoners.simdif.com [editor's note: as of printing websites are inactive]. Here, fellow prisoners can send their work free of charge to friends and family along with a 300 word bio. Ten works can be sent by email to ehel4prisoners@outlook.com. Prisoners themselves cannot yet send art into the company but I'm told they are working on getting a photographer, transit insurance, etc. If your family logs onto the site, there is a printable brochure that can be sent to you. Basically, anything you can paint, draw, or write is displayed on EH4P's merchant account on redbubble.com (search "prisonerartware") and can be sold printed on posters, cups, tshirts, bedspreads and so much more. At present the company charges nothing to post your art, and include your bio in your own "artist portfolio," but they do take 70% of the sales revenue. Still, it becomes an online archive for artists to SAFELY store their work forever! While I do see EH4P as a competitor, the fact remains that they are marketing prison art now...the Underground won't be up until mid 2018. Thanks for reading.

Mike Allison
PO Box 500
AC9983
Chino, CA 91708

The Phoenix Group Initiative - October 2016

Greetings comrades and others effecting resistance in its many forms and fashions, against the fallacy of justice!!! Although I am a firm supporter and advocate for the “freedom movement” and total abolishment of the corruption-riddled existence that is the prison-system across the nation, I am, overall, an advocate for and of the war against the tapeworm that is this so-called Justice System, which is leeching onto our children, branding them criminals and thereby siphoning away their ability to recognize and achieve their potential! Let us not forget that one important phase of our war (if not the most important phase!) is the necessity to provide our children with the tools that they need to combat against finding themselves trapped in the system in the first place! May our children come to value and learn from the mistakes and bad choices that have contributed to our subjugation - our captivity! Someone has to work on the other side of the fence...

In saying all of that, I am trying to spread the word about my efforts to establish “The Phoenix Group Initiative,” dedicated to and established for effecting change in our impoverished communities, our children, and assisting those who advocate for them, by lending to the cumulative wisdom of centuries of mistakes, wrongful convictions, and subjugation to this new form of oppression known as the criminal justice system. Although I have established, with a couple of comrades, a Facebook Group called “Three Friends and a Stranger” (www.facebook.com/groups/634530776696982) advocating said change, I am in need of people who can assist me in establishing and distributing my zine entitled “The Sword” whose mission is to empower, encourage, and foster knowledge, wisdom, motivation, inspiration, and the aspiration to manifest change and parallel objectives amongst prisoners, advocates, their families, their communities, organizations, etc. etc. via the rapport generated by the written word and is intended to be the first hard copy publication from PGI (The Phoenix Group Initiative). I also seek assistance with establishing and maintaining a blog for PGI...!

Please forward any and all information that may help to wage this war for redemption and the attrition of the mountain of obliviousness systematically put in place by the oppressor to impede our progress!

Respectfully,

Toola O. Taylor #B1154
Western Illinois C.C.
2500 Route 99 South
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353
ToolaOTaylor@facebook.com
www.facebook.com/ToolaOTaylor
www.PrisonsFoundation.org

Lovelock NV - October 2016

Hello again to everyone out there,
I’m writing with another update on Daisy Meadows and her fight with the Nevada Department of Corrections.

Back in March Daisy went to the hole because the NDOC and the administration here at Lovelock Correctional Center didn’t like the way she was fighting for her rights as a transgender woman. Then in June they went a step further and transferred her to Ely State Prison, the NDOC Supermax Facility.

Daisy is not in any way a danger to anyone, yet the NDOC sent her to where they send the most violent inmates. Now she faces the constant risk of attack, rape, and abuse from the worst of the worst. WHY?!?! For writing grievances, fighting for her rights!

Again, I beg anyone who can help to read her case: U.S. District Court #3:14-CU-00611, and contact her by writing to: Roy Trost #1027585, AKA Daisy Meadows, Ely State Prison, PO Box 1989, Ely, NV 89301. Any help from anyone is appreciated!

Thank you so much,

Mark Guth #73479
Lovelock Correctional Center
1200 Prison Rd
Lovelock, NV 89419

A Recourse of resistance - December 2016

Twisted Art Productions
Ohio Prisoners United
Lucasville Captives Rise to Defy

I write this from the frontlines in this war against the state. This onslaught of staff injustice shall no longer be tolerated as us captives unite from in a cage to dismantle this despicable operation from the inside out. And think...this disgusting state classifies this torture as rehabilitation, corrections, and reform. Foolish nonsense, as the public is swayed.

As we slowly dismantle state injustice, I must appeal to both the receiver and reader. Do away with the unproductive separations and diversified mentalities. Subtract attentions to one’s differences and refuse the state tactics and divisive ploys. To the many masses and my fellow captives, you must come forth united if but for once. We must end these repressive transgressions, as in every corner these infractions lie. But my comrade in every wall we wait to rise. Victory shall be ours, if only we will take possession. If only we could see the wondrous power we all contain.

Texas State Senator
Mr. James Pitts
Mr. Ted Cruz
Mr. John Whitmire
Ms. Sylvia Garcia
Mr. Brian Bindwell

Texas State Representatives:
Mr. Randy Weber
Mr. Borris Miles
Mr. Dennis Bonnen
Ms. Cassandra Ortiz
Mr. Rafael Anchia

TDCJ Ombudsman
Parole Division
PO Box 13401 Capt. Station
Austin TX 78711
512-406-5795

PO Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Kenedy, TX - November 2016

I am seeking help from all prison groups, organizations, and individuals for your help to join in failing a class action lawsuit on this issue, as follows:

A 1983 lawsuit. You need to file a complaint against Architecture Designer, who created "Blue Print Design Pattern" of TDCJ. You're suing Architecture for creating "cells" designed to deprive Ad. Seg offenders of their basic human right to food, water, light, and air. Cell design has been- slot to deprive of your food, and water pipe- to deprive your water. Air vent to deprive of your air. Window block sunlight to deprive of your light.

Next, you have to sue TDCJ and CID for using cells. To stop TDCJ and CID from using cells you have to file "Temporary Injunction- Motion"

Temporary Injunction Motion

- 1.You have to prove who is Architecture Designer, who created the idea of prison and cell designs
- 2.You have to prove Blueprint designed was created to deprive your food, water, air, and sunlight
- 3.You have to prove cell designs in Ad. Seg are altered. You have to show original plan compared to altered cell
- 4.You have to prove TDCJ uses these creations and inventions as cells to confine Ad Seg offenders and limit/restrict them, as well as deprive their basic human right
- 5.Prove TDCJ-CID uses limitation or restriction food, water, air, and sunlight as punishment, cruel and unusual, violating the 8th amendment
- 6.Prove TDCJ and CID use cells as a way to control ad. Seg offender's behavior

To stop TDCJ-CID from using cells to deprive, limit, restrict, take away basic human rights as "injunction" and declare its Constitutional right to food, water, air and sunlight, and that Ad. Seg. offenders are entitled to food, water, air and sunlight, unlimited, without restrictions.

David Duran
TDCJ-ID No. 1195075
Johnny B. Connally
899 FM 632
Kenedy, TX 78119

Prisoners United of Silicon Valley - December 2016

LETTER OF APPRECIATION –
Greetings and solidarity to each other and all who participated in our initial Hunger Strike to end the arbitrary use of solitary confinement and inhumane treatment in Santa Clara County Jails.

Before we set off into the body of this letter we would like to extend our respect and appreciation to all who participated and sacrificed to provoke change. Although we came from diverse backgrounds be it race, religion, color or creed we set our differences aside, inter-locked arms forming a formidable force through civil disobedience in solidarity.

Allow the sacrifices each participant has made be inspiration to others to join in our struggle, allow our peaceful protest to demonstrate the power of unity and the positive changes that can be effected when we view each other not as classification of inmates defined by the color of clothing issued to prisoners by administration but instead as human beings who share the same oppressive conditions.

[...] Before we bring this letter of appreciation to a close we would like to abreast the prisoner population that our hunger strike has not ended, it has been momentarily suspended. We gave administration (30) days to bring about tangible changes for the benefit of all prisoners. We will continue our efforts until all of our core demands have been met. We will not be duped by the superficial such as movie night and a snack, we must persist as a collective that stands firm on principle. We must not be deluded by a carrot on a stick offered to us by an oppressed system that is fueled by greed and political ambitions.

To prevail in our struggle for prisoners human rights we respectfully ask the prisoner population to exercise diplomacy for it is not in our own interest to engage in combat with one another when we are fighting together to improve our conditions of confinement. We ask those of you who sway influence in our housing unit to work with each other to resolve conflict peacefully by promoting prisoner solidarity. Let's try not to provide ammunition to the administration that allows them to justify the reasoning for the use of solitary confinement. Our goal is to promote our cause by unifying like-minded people to support our next planned Hunger strike.

In closing, we thank you for your time.

Truly,
PRISONERS UNITED OF SILICON VALLEY

Updates:

October 21, 2016

Prisoners formerly in solitary have been programming together on the yard since Friday 10/21 with good spirits. They send their love and appreciation to all the organizations, individuals and media that showed support. Hunger strike on suspension out of good faith that administration has:

1. Classification: In 90 days, strikers will be able to down-class on behavior in to general population.
2. Solitary confinement: Hunger Strikers have been released from solitary with handshakes and hugs.
3. Clothing and hygiene: additional clothing has been ordered.
4. Overpriced commissary and welfare fund: Due to contract constraints with the commissary vendor, the Administration has agreed to subsidize lowering commissary prices through the Welfare fund, meanwhile shopping for another vendor after contract completion.

The hunger strike will continue its suspension until lasting changes with administration, classification and Gang Intel are met.

October 25, 2016

We spoke with administration. In our discussion we made a few supplemental demands/requests:

1. Phones: We requested to install more phones in each unit which will be releasing more prisoners out to program, as each unit was designed for no more than one prisoner. In addition, installing sufficient phones will reduce the potential rise of inmate fights as a result of overlap.
2. Televisions: We requested at least one more television in the units that house a high capacity of prisoners to accommodate Spanish and Vietnamese speakers as well as to reduce the potential rise of inmate fights as a result of incapacity.
3. Sporks with handles: We requested sporks (spoon/fork eating utensils) with handles.
4. Tattoo removal program: We requested a tattoo removal program.

There was a shortlist of additional request/demands we made. This was just an example of the few. Currently there is a total of 10 small yards, unfortunately only 1 yard is being occupied by prisoners formerly in solitary, leaving a majority of prisoners who are in solitary due to the Administration's claim of incapacity.

COMMENTARY AND CALLS TO ACTION

Texas - September 2016

Greetings,

The reason I'm writing is TDCJ and the parole board got a hustle going - it's called Parole Board Rule 145.3(b). This rule keeps thousands of offenders in prison for years past their original date. It simply states you have to be at least the time earning class as you started since 9/1996. Everyone starts as a line class 1. This is a bad rule and it needs to be changed. Parole board members are appointed by the Governor because of the training and background, so they can decide who they think are a danger to society. But Parole Board Rule 145.3(b) takes that power away from the board members and gives it to some undertrained TDCJ Disciplinary Captain who hates inmates. I can bet everyone who has ever dealt with one they have no understanding. Now they're more powerful than the Director of Parole. Number one parole member can give us a set off. They have to have two of the three voters. Not so with the Captain. All he has to do is drop you below a Line 1 and you'll never see parole again until you're a Line 1 again. That's a minimum one year setoff. Under the new law you'll have to do your whole sentence if you never make Line 1 again.

TDCJ has so many rules, it is designed to punish us. So there are so many rules that everyone will break a rule. And TDCJ trains their new officers to write us up for every little rule violation. They make the guards think all it will do is get us put on restriction or something. If that was the case I wouldn't care. I got 21 years done on a 25 non agg for selling \$220 worth of coke. I'm a technical parole violation. I've been here since 2-18-14. The only reason I'm here is because TDCJ is making money on me, so to keep me here they write me cases for minor rule violations, but they grade them major cases. Any rule violation here can be graded a major case. I overslept for work: major case. Said I missed okra while picking: major case. Refusing to obey an order: major case. As you all know, once you get dropped below a Line 1 any rule violation is made a major case. Rule 145.3(b) needs to be changed. I'm not saying either that everyone who is below a Line 1 should go home. There are some that shouldn't, but that should be up to the parole board members, not some TDCJ Captain. The Board should be able to look at your display record, see what you did to get dropped, then the Board Members should vote. All of you out there need to write to your senators and representatives. They're the only ones that can get this changed. I write five senators or representatives every week. Last week Representative Randy Weber wrote back and told me something a lot of us forget. He said he works for us. Our families all had to vote them into office. We need to do something. It's cost me 22 years of my life for selling \$220 worth of coke. It's cost your family hard working Texas taxpayers around \$1,000,000 to punish me for selling an 8 ball of coke. Is that money well spent? If you're eligible for parole and you're below a Line 1, get your family to contact the Senator and Representative and Ombudsman. If we don't do something we're going to grow old in this place for some minor rule violation. Here's a few addresses:

A large banner that reads “PRISONERS ACROSS THE U.S. ARE ON STRIKE – Prisonstrike.com” was raised in the middle of the campus gateway. Using a speaker system, participants read aloud Chelsea Manning’s hunger strike statement and Free Alabama Movement’s “Let the Crops Rot in the Fields.” Sean Swain’s 9/9 statement from The Final Straw radio show and a segment from Crimethinc podcast about the history of prisoner resistance were also played.

People passed out handbills and had conversations with pedestrians and curious people who stopped to listen or ask what was going on. The demo lasted about an hour.

STRIKE SOLIDARITY, DAY 3: NOISE DEMONSTRATION

On September 10, about 30 people staged a noise demonstration outside of the county jail in solidarity with those locked up inside, as well as the 9/9 strikers. Noise was made, smoke-flares set off, and fireworks lit, illuminating the air as chants echoed off the walls in tandem with the honking horns of the blocked traffic. 800 flyers advocating solidarity with striking prisoners and condemning prison slavery were both strewn about and passed to curious passersby/motorists. We held the space outside the jail and completely blockaded the street for half an hour. Eventually we scattered and, as of this posting, no arrests have been made for this disruption.

Noise demos are a staple of anarchist action in recent years. Part of the logic of imprisonment is to isolate people from those outside of the prison walls. This makes it easier for prison officials to do anything to those locked up in their prisons without any reprisals or repercussions. All the abuses and misery taking place inside of prisons are kept out of sight and thus out of mind for the rest of society, or at least for those lucky enough to not have a loved one locked up. Partially in response to this, anarchists and others have established the tradition of converging outside of a prison or jail with the purpose of making a bunch of noise, launching fireworks, and holding banners so that those locked up know they are not forgotten.

THE FUTURE

Repression is still coming down on prison rebels as a result of their participation in the strike. For months anarchists in Bloomington have been hosting letter writing nights, call-ins, and fundraising efforts to support prisoners who have been retaliated against. On the last Monday of every month Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross hosts “Cage Flight” at Boxcar Books in order to discuss ongoing prisoner struggles and to write letters and cards to prisoners.

Do prison rebels feel emboldened and ready to take action again? Have they changed the seemingly apolitical climate inside the prisons? What impact and (anti-) politicization has this action had on the families of those who participated? Has the regime of race and gang barriers that keep prisoners from uniting against administrators been disturbed? What could we, anarchists outside the prison walls, have done better? What the consequences of the prisoner strike will be are unknown, and may not be known to us outside the prison walls for years to come. What seems clear, however, is that if we are to see an end to prison and its world, we have to continue our efforts in solidarity with prison rebels and against the entirety of prison society.

The Rangers Defense - June 2016

The Rangers Defense (TRD) is a grassroots inside-outside organization of incarcerated women who are faced with many obstacles today whether they’re locked up, fixing to be released or are released. TRD is dedicated to shutting down the abuse of women and children worldwide, whether it’s from prison guards, police, or individuals on the street.

TRD specializes in shutting down the abuse of women and children worldwide, and stopping the government from kidnapping the woman’s children and placing them in foster care or whatever else they call it. TRD can only help those who truly want to break free from the chains controlled by the oppressors by getting actively involved.

TRD understands that each person has her own individual issues, and therefore, TRD works with each female in solidarity, understanding that it is only in dealing with the day to day realities that she faces as a prisoner, and a female, articulated from her past experiences, that the true and sustaining solutions are to be found and sought for.

All work done on behalf of the female must start with her needs, and the ascertaining of her needs must start with a dialogue that grants her the opportunity to deal critically and creatively with her reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of her chains. To get your license you must get in the car.

TRD seeks to establish a chapter in every prison and jail in the world and invites prisoners, groups, organizations, and individuals who work on behalf of female rights to join us in organizing and carrying out the cause of our liberation and the abolishment of women and child abuse.

TRD are not lawyers, but as paralegals we can assist in litigation, if one is needed, and we can assist in obtaining a safe home plan and stable job. TRD has a newsletter called Ranger’s News. It is specifically designed for females and is free of charge. It doesn’t matter if you’re straight, bi, les, Christian, Odinist, Wicca, Cripp, Blood, white supremacist, Black Panther, BGF, etc. TRD is here to help you free yourself from the oppressors and make sure you get your needs met. Your belief is your belief. We would like to know what they are so we don’t disrespect you. But it is up to you if you want to tell us. Anyone can write me direct. If you can’t receive mail from a prisoner, please provide a third party or let me know if we need to use a TRD third party.

Again, no matter where you’re at, as long as you’re actively involved with TRD to get your needs met, then there should be no reason for your needs to not get met.

Randy Teter 1028240 8B-109
Jefferson City Correctional Center
8200 No More Victims Rd
Jefferson City, MO 65101

PRISON GROUPS UPDATES

United Panther Movement, Red Fist Alliance - October 2016

I got a notice of rejection/disposition of mail for Prison Action News on 9-2-16. This notice states PAN was sent to a reading committee. They could not find a rule violation from PAN, so they are using an administrative context for the rejection of PAN. As the prisoner resistance movement advances, the repression increases. I was forcefully strip-searched and placed in a restraint chair and taken to an isolation cell, where I remain, for refusing a cell assignment because of my mental and physical health conditions.

The reality is that the United Panther Movement, Red First Alliance, exists here under very repressive conditions. This, our prisoner resistance movement battlefield, is against prison staff and their inmate stooges, and we are in complete solidarity with the prisoner resistance movement. We are allowed prisoner to prisoner correspondence as long as the other prisoners are not in the Colorado Department of Corrections. This is the internet address to our blog where viewers can leave comments and where there are email notifications: <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/1491>. We will continue our passive non-cooperation, strikes against this prison industrial complex. Myself, Luke Chrisco, and John Coad, we are a grassroots anarcho, syndicalist, and socialist tendency. We have a zine library in support of our struggle. We are open to trade our zines for similar zines and/or for zines of interest to us. For more information contact;

Robert Thrower #47717
San Carlos Correctional Facility
PO Box 3
Pueblo, CO 81003

SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

Bloomington, IN: Prison strike retrospective - January 2017

<https://itsgoingdown.org/bloomington-prison-strike-retrospective/>

On September 9 2016, prisoners took action in 46 prisons for a nationally-coordinated prisoner strike. Of those facilities, 31 experienced a lock-down, suspension, or full strike for at least 24 hours, affecting around 57,000 people. By not showing up for work, prisoners shut down the regular operations of prisons like Kinross in Michigan and Holman in Alabama. By rioting and through other combative tactics, they disrupted normalized routines and operations for even longer. It was the largest action ever taken by prisoners in the United States, and anarchists took part both inside and outside the prison walls.

The strike has primarily been framed as a battle against prison slavery, an institution codified into law “as a punishment for crime” in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Prisoners are often employed for pennies an hour, performing not only the various tasks that keep the prison running, but sometimes producing commodities such as Starbucks cups or even putting out wildfires in California. No doubt, people participated in the strike for a variety of reasons, but the element of prison slavery was the narrative that stuck.

[...] When September 2016 began, anarchists in Bloomington organized open assemblies to facilitate the planning of actions in solidarity with the strike. [...] These assemblies took place daily around the days of September 9, and a number of actions throughout Bloomington directly resulted from them.

STRIKE SOLIDARITY, DAY 1: DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAMPAIGN HQ DISRUPTED

On September 8th, about a dozen people disrupted activities at the local Democratic Party campaign headquarters, the ruling party at the time. Standing outside the building, people held a large banner announcing the prisoner strike while a statement was read and others passed out handbills. Additionally, a group of people went inside the headquarters to yell chants, clog sinks, tear down campaign posters, and scatter handbills. An American flag in the office found its way into a toilet. People walked away from the building tossing handbills in the air.

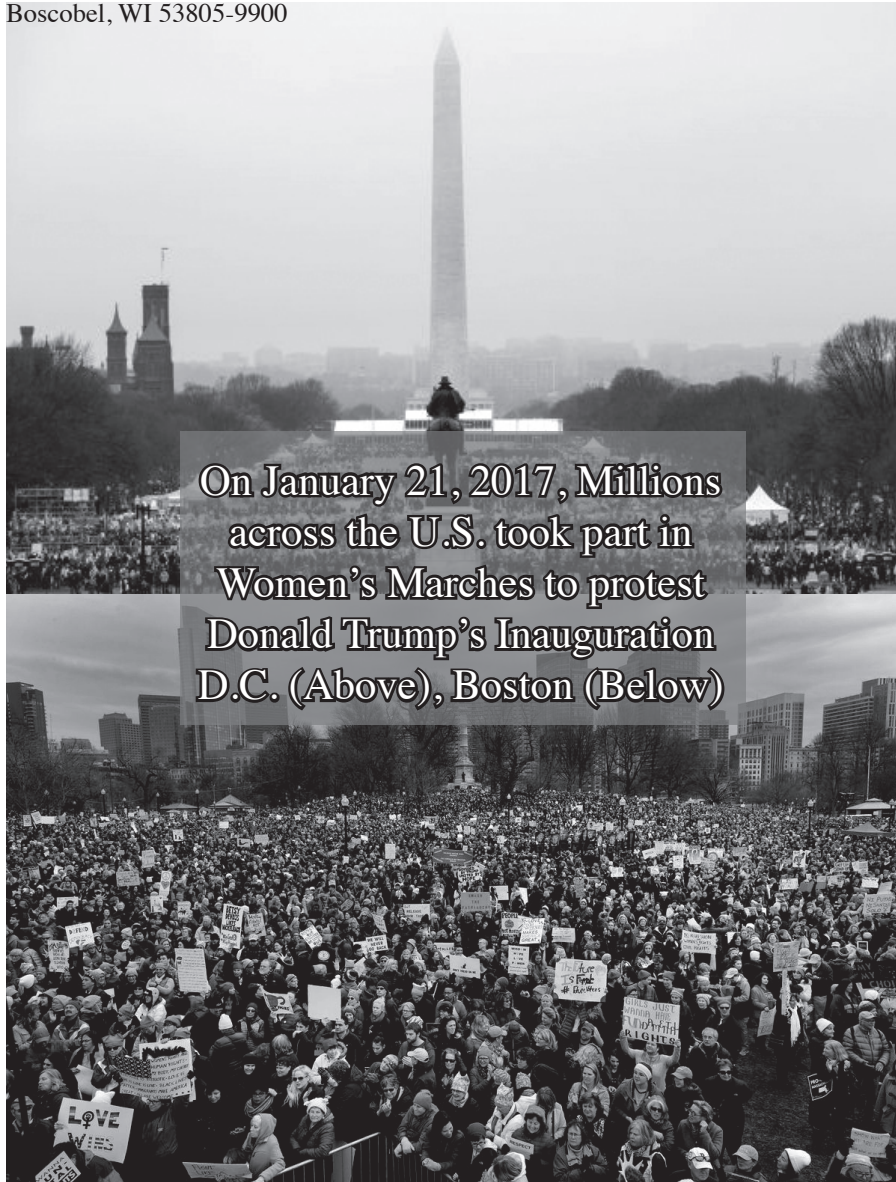
[...] The action was reported in the Herald Times without printing any part of the handbill’s text, even though they doubtless had access to it on account of the hundreds of copies scattered inside and outside of the building.

STRIKE SOLIDARITY, DAY 2: MICROPHONE DEMONSTRATION

On the first day of the strike, September 9, 2016, anarchists hosted a microphone demo at Indiana University’s Sample Gates.

A.A.G. Schmelzer continued to misrepresent the record and the law in her appellate brief, as explained in pages 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, and 14 of Lindell's Reply Brief. Lindell also seeks sanctions from the appellate court for Schmelzer's lies and frivolous arguments in that court.

Nate A. Lindell #303724
Wisconsin Secure Program Facility
PO Box 9900
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DIRECT ACTION/NON-COMPLIANCE

Asylum seekers riot on Manus Island after refugee death - December 2016

Reuters, AAP <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/12/25/asylum-seekers-riot-manus-island-after-refugee-death-police>

Senior Sergeant Thomas Lelepo, from Lorengau Police Station on Manus Island, said guards at the Manus Island regional processing centre were expelled by residents last night. "There was a situation there ... over the death of a resident," he told Reuters by phone, adding that order had been restored.

A 27-year-old Sudanese man, who was identified as Faysal Ishak Ahmed by refugee advocates, collapsed at the centre and was evacuated to hospital in Australia this week. Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection said he died on Saturday.

The man's death is not being treated as suspicious by Australian authorities, but detainees and refugee rights groups have claimed the man was seriously ill for months and had made repeated requests for medical assistance before the emergency.

Under Australia's tough border security policy, asylum seekers intercepted trying to reach the country by boat are sent for processing at the camps on Papua New Guinea's Manus island and Nauru in the South Pacific. They are never eligible for resettlement in Australia.

An Australian immigration department spokesperson confirmed an incident on Manus Island overnight. "The Department is aware of a disturbance involving a group of residents in the mess area of Manus RPC," the spokesperson said in a statement on Sunday. "The disturbance has now been resolved. There is minor property damage and no reported injuries."

Photos posted to Facebook by Iranian refugee Behrouz Boochani, who is among the asylum seekers held on Manus Island, showed what appeared to be damage to a mess area inside one of the compounds. Mr. Boochani wrote: "We just kicked out the Wilson security from Delta and Oscar detentions. This message is for the government."

The United Nations and human rights groups have condemned Australia's immigration policy, citing human rights abuses in the centres on Manus Island and Nauru and prison-like conditions that have driven some detainees to attempt suicide. A total of 872 asylum seekers are held on Manus despite Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court ruling in April that their detention was illegal and ordering the camps to close.

Birmingham prison riots: Authorities retake control of all four wings after 12-hour 'disturbance'

By George Bowden and Jack Sommers

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/birmingham-prison-riots_uk_5854295ae4b0acb6e4b83bd4

Authorities have retaken control of Britain's third largest prison after a 12-hour riot that saw prisoners post gloating selfies to social media as they ran amok. The Ministry of Justice confirmed specialist riot police took back control of the four wings of the prison by 10.30pm on Friday, after a disturbance that morning triggered the incident. As dusk settled over HMP Birmingham this evening, smoke was seen rising above buildings in the complex, just two miles from the city centre.

Prisoners were involved in an initial disturbance with officers just after 9am when lights were reportedly smashed, fire hoses were obtained, and a used syringe was brandished as a weapon. Attempts to lockdown the prison failed, and by mid-morning two wings of the jail were apparently under the control of prisoners, who could now number as many as 600.

Inmates took to social media posting images of chaotic scenes on landings and in other areas, with many of them appearing to be wearing prison issue riot gear. Some of the posts were removed shortly after they were published. One message reportedly read: "HMP Birmingham it's going off, the lags are taking over." One picture shows an inmate with keys, reportedly taken from an officer. One prisoner was hurt during the riot and went to hospital with a fractured jaw and broken eye socket, the BBC reported.

Prison affairs academic and blogger Alex Cavendish told the Press Association an "inside informant" told him the trouble started with lights being broken and inmates controlling fire hoses. "The officers were then, as they are instructed to do, trying to get as many prisoners locked in their cells as possible to contain it," he said. "While one of the officers was putting a prisoner in the cell he was threatened with what appeared to be a used syringe." Cavendish said while this officer was distracted by the threat, "another inmate came up behind, snatched the keys from his belt and snapped the security chain". He said that once prisoners have control of the keys, protocol tells the officers to "withdraw to a place of safety" and said they "abandoned the wing" where the incident started.

During the disturbance, a source talking to the rioters told Mail Online: "The prisoners have just taken control of the gym and they're trying to take control of the health care. "They've taken control of the N and P wings. They are close to the G wing which is where the vulnerable prisoners including mainly sex offenders are. If they get into the G wing then it will cause uproar and there will be people killed tonight."

Cavendish said inmates have since gained access to the offender management unit (OMU), where their paper records are stored and which were being burnt. He later tweeted to say prisoners were dousing incoming riot teams with paint. "I am

Two WI prisoners seek sanctions against same WI A.A.G. for her dirty litigation tactics -September 2016

In two pending federal court appeals (you may look the cases up on www.ca7.uscourts.gov) - i.e. *Ajala v. Swiek-Towski*; Appeal No. 16-1523 and *Lindell v. Pollard*, No 16-1528- of prisoner civil-rights lawsuits Wisconsin prisoners are seeking sanctions against the same state Assistant Attorney General, Jody J. Schmelzer (schmelzerjj@doj.state.wi.us) for her misrepresentations of the facts and law and use of perjurious evidence to get these prisoners' suits improperly dismissed.

While not many prisoners who file suits realize it, both Fed. R. Civ. P 11 and 28U.S.C. 1927 prohibit unethical litigation tactics, including using perjurious evidence, misrepresenting the facts or the law, or simply not conducting a reasonable investigation before an attorney or party files something with the court. Sanctions should be imposed if these requirements are violated, although I'm unaware of other cases where prisoners sought sanctions, probably because they don't realize that they can do so.

As Ajala told me about A.A.G. Schmelzer, "She's known for lying to the court." A.A.G.'s seem to think they can litigate dirty against prisoners, likely because most prisoners do not know the law well enough to seek sanctions and many judges- at least in Wisconsin Federal Courts- turn a blind eye to the misconduct that government attorneys engage in. However, in Dane County Circuit Court Case No. 02-CV-1272, *State ex. Rel. Lindell v. Litscher*, Judge Michael Nowakowski sanctioned then A.A.G. Richard A. Victor for frivolously defending a prison disciplinary action against Lindell. Although the state P.L.R.A. forbids prisoners from recovering costs in such actions, Lindell was awarded 200-some dollars in costs as a sanction against A.A.G. Victor; soon after AAG Victor "retired," and WI's legislature repealed part of its sanctions laws...

In the Ajala case, A.A.G. Schmelzer presented affidavits from Green Bay Corr. Inst. staff that falsely claimed that a group complaint Ajala wrote contained threats to assault staff. A.A.G. Schmelzer argued that those lies justified punishing Ajala, so his claim should be dismissed. (He claimed he was unfairly treated because of his race and religion, Black and Muslim). In her appellate brief she misrepresented the record in her effort to dismiss Ajala's appeal.

In the Lindell case, A.A.G. Schmelzer moved to dismiss Lindell's free speech challenge to Ampum Corr. Inst. staff's destruction of Lindell's drawings based on the need to limit excess property. Lindell showed how that concern didn't justify destroying Lindell's 12 drawings. So AAG Schmelzer presented multiple other justifications in her reply brief, which an attorney can't do. A.A.G. Schmelzer was told she couldn't do this in a previous case of Lindell's. Nor were those new excuses given to Lindell in response to his discovery request seeking "any and all" reasons for the treatment of his drawings, only the concern about excess property. She also misrepresented the law and record to argue for dismissal of Lindell's claims.

Indian Springs, NV - November 2016

Dear PAN,
I write so I can get some help in Nevada. I was sexually harassed by a c/o here at H.D.S.P (High Desert State Prison) twice by the same c/o on 1/20/16 and 1/22/16. I have gone through all my grievances on sexual harassment, assault, and retaliation. On 2/12/16, my celly beat me up because the c/o wouldn't stop sexually harassing me through my celly.

I have told numerous NDOC staff I was afraid of my safety against filing on this c/o. I've gone to Senior c/o, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Caseworkers and Wardens. They all denied me to move or put me somewhere I could be safe. This was before I got beaten up.

I have numerous grievances that were blocked by Associate Wardens and Acting Associate Wardens. I have also written to Las Vegas Metro Police Department asking for help. I have written to Secretary of the State, also the Attorney General's office, which they all sent my letters to the PREA Inspector General's office.

I have seen the investigator on 6/9/16. The investigator told me to my face that he believed everything I said to him. I asked him can I call him as a witness.

We just recently changed wardens and directors, so now I am confused on who I put in my civil rights 1983. Plus I'm stupid when it comes to Nevada Law. I am now back in the hole because an inmate called false PREA charges on me. He did tell me (the inmate) the cops were out to get me but don't know what he meant by that. So here I sit in solitary confinement. Plus NDOC has made it a point to block me from using the phone. Can't make any calls.

Anyone with any means of good advice I hope you will write to me. Thank you Prison Action News for printing this letter in your newsletter.

I am a gay male and always have been for years.

Sincerely yours,

Duane Tipten 69967 a.k.a. Tippy
High Desert State Prison
PO Box 650
Indian Springs NV 89070

hearing there is a very badly injured casualty (prisoner), and the prisoners are throwing computers out of the OMU window - destroying records," Cavendish added.

After the disturbance ended, the Prison governors' Association spokesperson said: "It would appear, on the face of it, that the private sector has now been infected with the same disease that has had such a debilitating impact on the running of public sector prisons: an erosion of respect and a disregard for authority which has emboldened prisoners across both the public and private sector. "Any suggestion that this riot is evidence that the staffing levels in public sector prisons are not a factor, or an insignificant one, is too simplistic." The category B jail, which was built in 1849 and is close to the city centre in Winson Green, can hold 1,450 adult remand and sentenced male prisoners.

Corrections officers evacuated from unit at Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley as prisoners refuse to return to their cells - January 2017

Noah R. Bombard

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/01/prisoners_at_souza-baranowski.html

The Massachusetts Department of Corrections is reporting that prisoners in a housing unit of 51 inmates at the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley are refusing to lock in their cells and corrections officers in the unit have been evacuated. The correctional center is a maximum level security prison.

A Massachusetts State Police spokesman told MassLive "numerous units" were sent to assist with a prisoner disturbance at one of the housing units and had staged outside ready to assist if they were needed. According to a Mass. Department of Corrections spokesman there were no reported injuries, but that corrections officers had been pulled from the unit and a crisis negotiator has been sent in. At 6:45 p.m., the spokesman said the disturbance was "still ongoing." Mass DOC reports the crisis negotiations team on scene and will attempt to get the inmates to lock in peacefully.

Letters from the Kinross Prison Uprising - December 2016

<https://itsgoingdown.org/combating-repression-following-kinross-prison-uprising-new-perspectives-new-efforts/>

Almost three months ago, prisoners at Kinross Correctional Facility participated in a nationally-coordinated prison strike that took place on September 9th. The work stoppage quickly escalated into a mass protest in the prison yard demonstrating the unity of the prisoners and, when faced with violent reprisal by the guards, escalated again into an all-out riot.

Following the events of September 9th and 10th, approximately 250 prisoners were transferred from Kinross to other facilities in the Michigan prison system, most being placed into Administrative Segregation (the hole), being charged with “Inciting a Riot or Strike” and “Rioting or Striking Misconduct,” and having their security statuses raised.

[...] The attempt by vegan prisoners to maintain agency over their own bodies through daily insistence on food keeping with their ethics, is one ongoing avenue of struggle. Even in the most ordinary circumstances, maintaining a vegan diet in prison is very challenging. In the wake of the Kinross uprising, it's become even more so for some.

The following report came in from Jacob Klemp, a participant in the events at Kinross, who has been vegan in prison for over six years. After being transferred first to Marquette, and then Baraga, Klemp went on hunger strike to protest and bring awareness to his situation. As services continue to privatize and food (both vegan and otherwise) continues to be used as a weapon of retaliation as well as a way for prisoners to maintain a sense of their own individual autonomy, we fully expect to hear more stories like this.

From Jacob:

I went on hunger strike for 6 days in an attempt to get their attention. But to no avail. I began eating again after I had lost 10 lbs and came to the realization that I could die in here and without media exposure they wouldn't care. They didn't even check on me regularly.

Food service is run by a privatized company. Trinity food service group. The supervisor's name here is Ms. Bousquet. What they are serving and claiming as a vegan diet lacks vital nutrients and is what is causing me to suffer malnutrition. The menu they have printed is even deceptive. I have never seen vegetable stir fry served here which is on the menu.

They can technically claim they are serving me a vegan diet but it is a lie of omission. They are lacking in vegetables, fruit, nuts and the nutrients needed to stay healthy. The issue lies with needing a menu change. At very least, back to what it was before food service was privatized. What they are serving isn't fit to serve a dog. The diet was good until food service became privatized. I have written numerous grievances to no end and am beginning to think nothing will change until legal action is taken.

All prisoners should cite all pertaining procedures in your grievances and 1983 complaint in order to not be caught later when AG brings it to the court's attention. All prisoner who are indigent who intend to go to court should check out 28 USCS 1915 and PLRA which is 42 USCS 1997e. You must prove your indigency status to the court by turning in a federal financial certificate to the main office accounting services and attach that to motion for pro se status as they call “informal pauperis.”

Since I am a Nevada prisoner this specifically goes out to Ray Trost [editor's note: Daisy Meadows]. The AR740 grievance procedure states one issue per grievance, one incident per grievance. Any grievance that is redundant to another will be improper or rejected and if OP 723 applies there LCC as here ESP after 3 rejections your grievance is abandoned, so they say. You have a US district court case number not yet decided in two years- the number has no judge's initials therefore not before a judge to be decided, so file a motion for status check/screening or judgment on pleading under Fed. R. Civ. P. 3, 7(b), 12(c) but first write letter to clerk to obtain judge's initials who is assigned to your case then motion. Read Farmer v. Brennan, 114 S.Ct. 1970 (1994).

This specifically goes out to Linda Burnett although it may apply to any other prisoner. You can write a letter to your state's legislature to receive any information on past or present laws that are enacted. The state's legislature's address you should be able to request it from law library, if not, write your state supreme court library and explain what you want as you did to PAN. During this time span you should possess your entire criminal case or at least all your appeal briefs- pull out your state writ of habeas corpus post conviction. Normally all prisoners file this- it is after you were denied the State Supreme Court on first (direct) appeal just follow the form as if it is blank so you can obtain a blank form from your law library. Recite the state habeas statutes and under them put “newly discovered evidence” somewhere. Count 1 A violation of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 14th due process, 14th equal protection of the laws. Under that, Newly Discovered Evidence, make your argument as you did it PAN minus all your case history appeals. On a separate sheet of paper put the same first page you vs. state with case # under that motion for Appointment of Counsel for exploring writ issue and explain to the court that you have no legal knowledge. Make a copy and send it to the postconviction court where the first one went. Your only other two options are 1. file a 28 USC 2255 motion to state district court on a modification of sentence, 2. File a reduction of sentence in state court under one of these statutes 18 USCS 3553 (a); 18 USCS 3582; 28 USC 994 (o) not sure if TX has different statutes under these laws or different cites of the statutes. You can also file a 42 USC 1983 on the DOC for refusing to release you under sentencing guidelines.

If there are any prisoners who need help you can get a friend or family to write me a letter and ask any legal questions, advice, etc. If you don't hear from me write until you do. Prison officials love to retaliate by throwing away my mail. I will answer all!

Lance Reberger 39494
Ely State Prison
PO Box 1989
Ely NV 89301

Ely, NV - November 2016

To all prisoners,

This is to inform all of you on what to do in your fight for justice within the state you are in. I am a self-made pro se litigant who fights for all prisoners rights. I know criminal law over 20 years, civil law 6 years, and it took me three strikes provision to learn 28 USC 1915 (g). I presently have 4 civil cases pending and two more to file because I will not allow this prison system to mess with me, screw me, hurt me, because of my mighty pen and paper

The first thing you need to do upon any incident is to check out your prison's grievance procedure, learn it, write it all down or make a copy. You must know it, cite it, rely on it, follow it to a T, know what you can and cannot do according to it. You cannot go to court unless you complete it- "all levels" under Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) unless you can prove to the court you were not allowed to complete it due to prison system or one of their employees. If you intend to go to court and file 42 USC 1983 you must get the individual's name and try to obtain first name or initial, last name, rank, job title and unless you have a photographic memory, make a journal on everything and keep it hidden so the cops/CO's can't find it to destroy it. If you don't know the personnel name you can cite their rank and as a John Doe in your complaint until later upon discovery motion. You also must learn and write down your state's civil procedure laws - each district has its own civil law procedure of state law, but the federal courts only have one federal rules civil procedure. You must treat these civil procedures like your grievance procedure: learn them, know them, abide by them, or you will lose because the AG state or federal will cite them often and don't forget your court's, where you file, local rules. The courts must construe your complaint liberally as being true and if you survive the screening process you will either go into settlement stage or the court will order the AG to respond, then you will have to prove what you said in your complaint is true with declarations from you and other prisoners would help, with documentation. The AG will probably also file a motion to dismiss or motion for summary judgment and you will or should get a court order informing you what exactly you must do. You must understand one important thing. The prison system's personnel, no matter who they are, will lie on paper, in a declaration, to the AG. AG will lie, fabricate documents, or do anything necessary to win on behalf of any and all prison personnel, trust me, I know from personal experience. So be very careful on what you do, what you say to whomever and who you speak to.

Also if you cannot complete the grievance process because of the Inspector General IG investigation, director, medical director, write them a letter every two weeks until they respond and make a copy - law library or carbon paper as I do, and put that copy away. It should always include your info and date.

For those of you who are disabled and meet the criteria under Title 11 of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, other mental/physical disability statutes 29 USCS 794; 42 USCS 12101 through 12134; 2 USCS 701, research them all before you file. To all you military veterans, thank you for your service! You can file a complaint with the US Dept of Justice-write and request one.

I would have continued my hunger strike if I thought the public/media would be made aware. This is more of an issue now due to the fact that I'm in administrative segregation and have to rely on them completely for my food. I don't have the option of purchasing mixed nuts or getting vegetables from the garden.

The bottom line is what they are serving and calling a vegan diet will ultimately cause anyone who is on it to suffer from malnutrition. It consists mostly of GMO soy and potatoes. I know a lot of it has to do with costs and the privatized company just doesn't want to pay the money needed to provide adequate nutrition. They figure they can just throw some soy and beans at us and that's enough.

Before being transferred here I was at MBP for a month. They don't have any form of the diet there and didn't even bother to attempt to transfer me until everyone arrived with as transferred.

I just want to walk my spiritual path and not have to suffer physically in order to do so.

Write to Jacob:

Jacob Klemp 231258
Baraga Correctional
13924 Wadaga Road
Baraga, MI 49908

What follows is another perspective on the Kinross uprising from Lamont Heard, a prison rebel in the Michigan DOC who was active during the protests at Kinross Correctional in March of this year. Lamont was not present at Kinross during the September uprising, but compiled the following account from inmates who were transferred to his current prison after the events of September 9th and 10th.

From Lamont:

As' Salaam Aliakum! Below is a report of the rebellion at KCF as told to me by someone who was there:

There was weeks of preparation to shut Kinross Correctional Facility (KCF) down on September 9th, 2016. It was to commemorate the rebellion at Attica prison in the 1970's. The organizers at KCF wanted to push for higher pay wages and improve the living conditions of the inmates.

Prior to 9-9-16, the prisoners had shown unity several times by the entire population going outside and standing in front of their housing unit and not going to chow (all 1,200 prisoners). Now when September 9th came, it was understood that no one was to go to work for 3 days. On 9-9-16, no one went to work. When we ate chow in the morning, it was a sight to see no prisoner working. Staff had to assist in serving us our food. On this day, lunch was fed to us around 3:00 in the afternoon, and dinner at 11:00 at night. The first day seemed successful.

On 9-10-16, when prisoners went to chow, they were expecting to get their breakfast of waffles, a patty, oats, juice, and milk; but instead, they received a cold cheese sandwich, 4 small duplex cookies and milk. What a change in a day that can make. One prisoner was taken to the hole that morning for just the simplest of infraction. This began to light a fire in some prisoners. [note: As reported here previously, eyewitness Gilbert Morales reported that the administration had previously met with

Block Representatives, gave a green light to the work stoppage, and said their would be no consequences and no one would be penalized for participating.]

After chow, yard usually opens around 8:00 am. But this morning, the administration did not open the yard. What did they do that for! At around 9:00, prisoners started coming out of their units. G and H units started coming out first. Then F, D, E, C, A, and B. At this point there were about 300-500 prisoners on the yard at this time. They were walking around in a long line making circles around the front court where we are not allowed to walk normally unless we have a pass or call-out. The prison blew its siren for emergency count. These prisoners that were protesting remained on the yard during the entire time. The prison guards made rounds and took count at 9:15 am. Around 9:30 am, large masses of inmates went into every unit and told everyone to get out the unit and join the protest; and if they didn't, when they come back they were going to stab anyone who were left. So the majority of the rest of the prisoners who took count left the units for fear of their lives (some of these prisoners were found guilty of "inciting a riot" tickets even though they were not willing participants).

Now the prisoners on the yard grew to about 900. Prisoners were still walking in circles around the common area and the courtyard in front of every unit was filled with prisoners. This continued for about 30 minutes. Then prisoners began to settle, mostly in front of the housing units. Prisoners observed outside the gates that there were guards in riot gear with the state police securing the perimeter of the institution. The deputy warden must have felt that this was a good time to come in front of the control center with a bullhorn just as the siren blew for the second time and stated, "I'm giving everyone on the yard a direct order to go back to their units!"

Approximately 300-400 prisoners walked up to the control center where the deputy warden was. Before they made it to where he was, he ran back to the door of the control center for fear of his life. But the talking heads of the protesters told the deputy warden before he ran back into the control center, "Are you ready to talk now?!" The deputy warden came back out and heard what the prisoners had to say. They raised issues ranging from pay to visitation to prisoners' living conditions. And he assured them that they would do everything they could to meet their demands.

At this time, the prisoners left the control center and began to congregate. During these discussions, there were two different mindsets. One wanted to tear the joint up and the other wanted to exercise peace. Peace prevailed. Everyone went back to their units. The institution blew the siren for the third time that morning. It was now about 11:30-12:00 pm.

The prison guards took count. Bagged lunches were served to the prison population in the housing units. The prison remained on lockdown the entire day. At 3:00 pm shift changed and a new batch of officers came. [Note: According to another account, at this point prisoners again demanded no physical or administrative retaliation and prison officials again made false promises.] Around about 5:00-6:00 pm, a call came over the guards' radios saying something that sounded like "10-14..10-14." At this time all the inmates witnessed all the guards in every unit running to the control center. There was silence on the units. This probably was the quiet before the storm. When all the guards left the prison, armed guards with pepper spray guns,

ety as a whole, and usually we are the first to get experimented on by the government and ruling class, to see how strong resistance will be.

I just did 13 years in federal prison before I got my sentence as an Armed Career Criminal vacated due to the residual clause being declared unconstitutional. I was doing 18 years in the feds as an Armed Career Criminal merely for being convicted of having "constructive possession" of a handful of bullets. The State of Ohio had a detainer on me for violating my parole but didn't hold the revocation hearing until the 13th year, where all my witnesses had died and were unavailable as witnesses on my behalf. To add insult to injury the parole board members, and even my own Public Pretender, erroneously declared that I had been found guilty of possession of an SKS assault rifle, when I beat that charge at trial. They first gave me a 3 year flop but when I appealed it and stated that they relied upon erroneous information, they upped it to a 5 year flop in retaliation for appealing. What happened next is a bizarre tale of how I had forgotten how the Ohio state courts acted towards prison litigation, using every technicality at their fingertips to have cases dismissed. When I filed my mandamus/habeas corpus in state court in attempt to right the wrong by the Parole Authority, I paid \$125 to file the action and three weeks later it was dismissed because the court declared I didn't file a proper affidavit of indigency when I filed. Of course I didn't. I didn't proceed under indigency status. When I pointed out that the clerk made a mistake and didn't log the checks paying the court costs, they cited a case from a very small county that allowed a case to be dismissed for failure to file the affidavit. In other words, the old mafia practice of "one hand washes the other" goes for state and federal officials as well.

The problem is, when we were constantly denied access to the courts back in the 60's and 70's, guards and officials were taken hostage and killed in order to make a statement. That's when Judge Spiegel started intervening and hearing our cases, to stop the violence!!

The Ohio Parole Board has gotten out of control. They have given out 4 year flops here for prisoners doing life sentences who already served 31 years, and yesterday called a man with 34 years in and changed his flop from 4 years to 10 years, maxing him out of prison, merely because he had been in a fight. With all these new law youngsters in here doing a couple years flat they care nothing about starting fights, why not, they go home in a couple years, but those of us old law prisoners who have "tails" get 10 year flops at the parole board for fighting with one of these young gangbangers.

We must unite as one and realize that we are victims of this war on the poor, rather than being at odds with each other.

In solidarity!!

Big John Perotti

A new hope - August 2016

House Bill 2135...Lifers may finally get some rhythm

On May 25, 2016, State Representative Jason Dawkins, announced that he would be introducing a bill that will abrogate life without parole (LWOP) in Pennsylvania, as well as, the extension of parole eligibility to prisoners whom have already been sentenced to life imprisonment.

In his memorandum to the Members of the House of Representatives for the State of Pennsylvania, Rep. Jason Dawkins pointed out several facts, including (but not limited to), how as of 2008, Pennsylvania has had the second highest LWOP population in the entire nation (U.S.A.); keeping those sentenced to LWOP incarcerated creates an avoidable expense for the PA Dept. of Corrections - and the taxpayers whose money fund it; and how a sentence of LWOP is unfair to the individuals whom have reformed themselves and are considered model inmates. A sentence of LWOP is an injustice - period.

This House Bill needs to be supported, otherwise it will NOT see the light of day. It will not make it anywhere past the committee, let alone go into the books as law. Rep. Jason Dawkins needs to be supported 100% on this. Anyone who wants a change of this magnitude to occur, truly needs to be on board by reaching out to your elected officials immediately and express your support for said House Bill No. 2135.

Do not let this bill go to waste! Please contact your local State Representative(s) and your State Senator(s), and request their full support for House Bill No. 2135. State Representative Jason Dawkins' House Bill 2135 is not only a major step into ushering the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania out of its stand-still state of existence, into a more fair and reasonable one, but also giving transformed lifers who have matured and are now part of the solution, rather than the problem - a second chance at life in the free world. Majority of the states throughout the entire country have either allowed parole to be an option for lifers, or they have changed their laws in order to make it a possibility. Pennsylvania is way overdue for a chance, so let's change it together.

-Yasin Frankie Rodriquez-
Chairman of the Newsletter Committee
Lifers Incorporated

No rules of engagement - November 2016

In a war, there are always "rules of engagement," which are basic rules that the military and enemy combatants are bound to follow. Usually being monitored by the United Nations.

What many prisoners don't know is that there is an ongoing war being engaged between the government (and the state) and the poor and disenfranchised, which is illustrated in our prisons. Our prisons are a small microscopic view of soci-

shot guns and 40 caliber pistols stormed the prison.

Prisoners in every unit (except 2) started destroying everything that belonged to the prison. Prisoners kicked holes through the walls of the counselor's office and set it on fire, burned files, taped cameras, broke computers, burst windows, sinks, toilets, walls, and broke into contraband lockers. One unit even threw a washer and dryer out the window. This continued for about 4-5 hours. Surprisingly enough, no prisoner on prisoner violence was reported.

Around 9:00 pm, the ERTs (Emergency Response Teams) started to shoot pepper spray into the units and slowly made their way into each unit. Prisoners were pushed back to their cubicles as they gagged and coughed. Then the guards sprayed pepper pellets down the hall and into every cubicle. Now with every unit subdued, they ordered everyone in every cubicle to step out one at a time to exit the rear door where there were armed guards waiting to zip-tie every prisoner and extract the ones they had on their list. The ones they extracted they immediately placed on a bus and drove them to higher security level prisons. About 100 to 150 prisoners were taken that night. The remainder of the prisoners were taken in front of the housing units with tight zip-tied cuffs on and forced to sit on the cold ground. Minutes later it started to rain. Some prisoners stood up to gain some circulation in their arms and the ERTs shot them with pepper balls and continued to shoot them even after they sat down.

Now it was about 12:30 in the morning and they took one unit at a time to the chow hall where they fed us. By the time they finished feeding us and getting the property of every prisoner they extracted, some made it back to their units around 3:00 in the morning.

The next day when all the smoke cleared, there were about 50 plus ERTs inside the prison with guns and pepper spray guns. The entire yard stayed on lockdown for the entire day.

Now on October 12th around 4:00 pm, the administration sent the ERTs into each unit and extracted about another 100 prisoners. On the 13th, another 100 prisoners or so were extracted. On the 13th, the higher level prisons could not sustain any more ride ins, so a prison block in Jackson's RGC (Reception and Guidance Center) had opened to hold these additional prisoners.

Every one of these prisoners was written an "incite to riot/strike" ticket. Of the ones who went to Jackson, only about 10 prisoners were found "not guilty." One was the individual who went to the hole at breakfast on 9-10-16. The other 9 were prisoners from F-Unit who were threatened out of the unit. The ironic thing with these F-Unit prisoners is that once the inmates stormed in the unit threatening other prisoners, the 2 prison guards did not stop them from coming into the unit nor leaving. The 2 guards (King and Moran) went cell to cell telling prisoners that they could go outside if they felt as if they feared for their lives. One observer said that he felt as if the guards feared for their lives and did not want the mob of inmates to return and that is why they did what they did.

One inmate who was housed in the Jackson RGC said that he was one of the last prisoners to go to court. And on his finding, he requested the video of the unit hallway to support his claim that he was forced out of the unit.

The hearing took a week to continue from the postponement. The prisoner

discovered in the report that Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor (ARUS) Myers lied about the events that happened in F-Unit, claiming that no one was given permission to leave the unit. And that out of all the videos from the incident, no video from F-Unit was sent. The Hearing Officer stated that he requested F-Unit's video on numerous occasions and Kinross Correctional Facility stated that it was not retrievable. But later, they sent only the lobby area of the incident and not the unit hallways where Officers King and Moran went and told everyone they could leave the unit if they felt threatened. The H.O. found this prisoner "not guilty" at that point. Unfortunately, other prisoners who were also forced out of F-Unit in particular (who had staff permission to leave the unit) were not as fortunate as the prisoners who were heard later in the day. The prisoners heard prior to this hearing were all found guilty because they did not have Moran's statement nor the video to support their defense.

Write to Lamont:

Lamont Heard #252329
Thumb Correctional Facility
3225 John Conley Drive
Lapeer, MI 48446

Jefferson City, MO - November 2016

Greetings Comradette's and Comrades,

It's Ms. Skyylar Alexxys Munk here again. I would first like to thank you for publishing my letter in PAN 9.2. Secondly, I would like to report some updates to my situation here in the Missouri PIC. I am still having a rough time. I am still filing Grievances. (Ours is a 3 step system. Informal Resolution Request (I.R.R.), Grievance, and Grievance Appeal. It takes a max of 6 months to exhaust.) So far I've filed 8 I.R.R.'s which are no's: jccc 15-1863, jccc16-327, jccc16-333, jccc16-439, jccc16-604, jccc16-714, jccc16-888 and one that is still pending that I do not know the number of. Even though these people know of my problems they still won't help. I've been rushed to the outside hospital in Columbia (University Hospital) four times since I last wrote (6-6-16, 7-9-16, 10-9-16, and 11-12-16). Four times now I have used either an ad-seg inkpen or random pieces of sharp metal to cut open my scrotum and pull out my gonads in an attempt to castrate myself. And I continue to have these urges. I desperately need help!

On the upside, as a result of these hospital trips I have been seen by a psychiatrist named Meredith Throop who specializes in gender issues that MO DOC hired. She's seen me multiple times and after an evaluation I was finally diagnosed with gender dysphoria. She also recommended Hormone Therapy/AntiAndrogens, which they still refuse to give me. Sometime after the recommendation I was told that she no longer works for our medical service provider "Corizon Health." Surprise, surprise!! I have also recently filed a petition in the Cole County Circuit Court (MO) to legally change my name to Skyylar Alexxys Munk. It is case No. 16AC-FC01352. I hope it doesn't get denied. Because I won't know what else to do. I have joined the IWW's Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) here in Missouri along with our state's branch of CURE.

I will continue to fight for me and other transgender inmates in our miserable state to get the care we need and deserve. For those in the struggle keep on fighting until the walls fall down! We all need to stand together, not apart. There's power in numbers. As Missouri's state seal says, "United we Stand, Divided we fall." Until the next time. Stay strong.

Love, hope and solidarity

Ex Animo,

Ms. Skyylar Alexxys Munk

P.s. If you wish to write me, address the letter to Ms. Skyylar Alexxys. But address the envelope exactly like this:

Ms. Skyylar Alexxys Munk
A.k.a. Danny L. Pilkinton Jr. #1170757
JCCC 8200 NMU Rd.
Jefferson City, MO 65101-4539

Ely, NV - September 2016

Dear Prison Action News,
Thank you so much for your help and support and for publishing my story and situation. I am holding on and have hope that change is coming. I have an update on my situation and I still need help with legal issues on my case for trans issues, medical treatment, etc. case number 3:14 - CV-00611. My last two stories ran in your February and August publications and I will continue to fight and keep people updated.

I was further retaliated against since I was locked up at Lovelock. I was transferred to Ely, a Max Facility, something the administration at Lovelock had threatened to do for filing grievances. My hole time is complete and I have a cellie, "Amber," another trans woman who the NDOC has put through hell. My fight isn't only for myself, but to help other girls in the system like her to make changes. Currently the NDOC is strongly against transgender inmates and has absolutely no acceptance or understanding and that is something that needs to change.

I am fighting on several different issues including clothing, medical treatments, cosmetics, name, classification issues, etc. But I need help. I am currently locked up at Ely and it's near impossible to get anything done here. I'm confined in a cell 24/7 with very limited legal access and my legal knowledge is limited. The transgender community in Nevada and throughout the country is under attack in prisons. We are defenseless and being subjected to threats, retaliation, beatings, repressive gay conversion therapy, mind control.

Girls, be strong! Be proud and keep your heads up. Keep fighting and unite. Stand up for yourselves and your rights. Help and change is coming. We have to have hope. Our injustices will be brought to light and everyone will see just how corrupt the NDOC is and see clearly just how much they hate and are disgusted by trans women that have done nothing to deserve this treatment.

Girls unite, I love you all and you're not alone. There are people out there that do care.

In solidarity,

R. Trost a.k.a. Daisy Meadows
#1027585
Ely State Prison
PO Box 1989
Ely, NV 89301

Milwaukee, WI: Hunger strike news and updates

<https://itsgoingdown.org/milwaukee-wi-hunger-strike-news>

-updates/

1) For a long time our only news from hunger strikers within the prison came from Cesar De Leon, the stalwart lone survivor of the torturous force feeding techniques used by the prison. Then the prison started forced feeding him only every three days making the process as painful and physically traumatic as is possible. Our information came from an IWW member visitor, his family, and his letters.

2) Norman Green, Uhuru to his friends, and a man who has endured 18 years of solitary confinement, has filed a petition to end this kind of retaliatory forced feeding. He cites national and international experts and organization all who roundly condemn practices that the WI prison system utilizes daily.

3) Letter from Tommy Carter outlines the abuses 6 hunger strikers are undergoing in the seg unit at Waupun Correctional Institution WCI. Here is his letter:

Tommie Carter 389297

WCI, PO Box 351; Waupun, WI 53963

December 18, 2016

Ms Swan, On December 1, 2016, the Department of Corrections was granted a one year order for involuntary evaluation, feeding and hydration of me. I have continuously refused to voluntarily consume any nutrition or hydration in protest of the constitutional violations here at Waupun

In addition to being deprived of minimal civilized measure of life's necessities as described in "the nature of the hunger strike" that I submitted in case no 16-cv-572 as we are experiencing unrelenting and crushing mental anguish, pain and suffering as a result of the inadequate mental health treatment and many years that we have spent without normal human interaction, in stark and restrictive conditions, without any hope of release from this living nightmare that does not end and will not end.

Ms Swan, the devastating psychological and physical effects of prolonged solitary confinement here at Waupun is well documented to cause mentally ill inmates significant mental harm and places them at grave risk of even more devastating future psychological harm.

As evidence of this, me and Mr Cesar DeLeon endure beatings every single day. Because we will not allow WCI officials to weaken and undermine us or break us, as they have claimed, we are causing problems by brainwashing other inmates to go on hunger strikes in support of the protest. Additionally, we were told, that if we continue to not come out our cells to be forcibly feed or hydrated by WCI nursing staff we would be beaten, So we are beaten, tased or sprayed with substances that are

capable of causing death, These agents affects your ability to breathe or see for long periods of time. Dr Salam U Syed recently testified that my health is still deteriorating and that my urine specific gravity show very large amounts of ketones and that my blood work for electrolytes are not normal which could cause metabolic acidosis, electrolyte imbalance, cardiac complications, coma and death.

I believe these are scare tactics because if my gluconeogenesis were in full effect by producing energy from non-conventional sources in my body, I would have been hospitalized already.

These are the following prisoners at WCI who are on an active hunger strike:

Tommy Carter

Cesar DeLeon

Jose Soto

Brion Nash

Walker

Redmond

Davis

I am also placing you on notice that these people are fabricating these meal monitor logs claiming that we are eating in an attempt to get us off our strikes. It's just another tactic they use. Please call up here to WCO and inquire about us see what they tell you. I believe another round of protest outside WCI should be done ASAP but this time turn the heat up,

Please send me all the information that you have on the use of force and hunger strikes here at Waupun. Excessive force is still being used on prisoners here at Waupun every day. Please do not forget to let your media and legislative contact know what they are doing to us,

In November to December 2016 we were on modified lockdown because officer Nelson was stabbed several times for purportedly provoking and harassing a mentally ill prisoner. Please write me back ASAP to let me know if you get this letter.

Sincerely yours, Tommy Carter

Jailhouse lawyering - November 2016

I am a prisoner-artist and Prisoner Restorative Justice Coordinator who has been practicing law since 1987. I learned the craft from the OGs in the law library at the Los Angeles County Jail. I've been involved at all levels of litigation for myself and others. I was in High Desert State Prison (HDSP) for thirteen years, and used to drink homemade wine there. I didn't know anyone there who did not. So when I ran across someone who didn't that was an oddity. Later I would find out that this person who became a client was in a drunken stupor when he killed his live-in girlfriend. HDSP cancelled his visitation rights with minor children based on this crime. They could not legally do this, and I filed an administrative appeal (CDC 602). We lost at the institutional and departmental levels. We then filed a habeas corpus in the superior court and lost. We then appealed and won, and he was given his visitation rights back.

Under the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations (CDCR), a prisoner has no access to the law library unless they are within thirty days of a legal deadline. Under this scenario, a litigant only has six hours to learn the law. You get one day of library access per week, for two hours. When you get library access on that fourth week, that time must be spent getting your xeroxed copies and envelopes. That's not a research day. Under this system, library access is woefully inadequate to properly litigate multiple issue litigation. If you're not on lockdown, a perison can walk into the prison library during normal programming. However, if you're on lockdown, the chances of library access outside of the thirty day deadline rule may not be probable. My response to that was to write to libraries for donated books. In High Desert we went on lockdown for months at a time. One time we went on lockdown for two and a half years, no canteen and no packages. Chapman University out of Orange County did provide me with discarded books so that I could have my own in-cell law library.

New prisoners should be aware that if they feel their appellate attorney is not filing sufficient issues they can file a "Marsden Motion." A "Marsden Motion (People v. Marsden (1970) 2 C6 18)," is normally used in the trial court to complain about poor representation. It is helpful to file such a motion for post appeal litigation in which you maybe asked "Why are you raising an issue, that should've been raised on appeal?" If the Court of Appeal does not address your Marsden request, it is an automatic reversal of their decision, under California law. Currently I have a client's case before the United States Supreme Court on direct appeal, as a direct result of California not following this rule.

Finally, if anyone wants to assist me with donated law books it would be highly appreciated, as most of my current books predate 2010.

Donald Hooker
CDCR #K94063
PO Box 4490
Lancaster, CA 93539

THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK

Good-conduct time initiative - November 2016

It is my great pleasure to inform 3g Texas offenders that real progress is being made towards making our good-conduct time count! The opportunity for our good-conduct time to expedite our parole eligibility is upon us! The 85th Texas Legislature convenes in 2017- Congressional Calendars are being determined as you read this!

I have drafted a bill to amend Section 508.145 (d)(1) of the Texas Government Code which is the statute governing parole eligibility for 3g offenders. Pursuant to the provisions of said amendment offenders described therein would thus be required to serve one-half of our sentence(s) - with (rather than without) the consideration of our good-conduct time- before becoming eligible for parole. This bill has been sent to the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate, and the Texas Governor's office.

To substantiate this initiative, I have solicited support from key advocacy organizations, including TIFA, TX-CURE, and the Prison Justice League. I have also published a petition on change.org entitled "Good-Conduct Time Consideration to Expedite Parole Eligibility for All." Please ask your family and friends to sign this petition and encourage everyone around you to do the same! Do not procrastinate! Public support is the key to persuading authorities to acquiesce.

Robert Stephen Nunes #1264714
Mark W. Stiles Unit
3060 FM 3514
Beaumont, TX 77705-7635

Petersburg, VA - December 2016

My name is Chris Hannigan, I am currently locked up at FCC Petersburg- Low. I am preparing a civil suit against the BOP for delay of care. I am looking for copies of BP-8s and 9s or copies of triage forms showing delay of care, so I can show the court that this is a widespread issue and not an isolated event. Thank you for your help.

Christopher Hannigan
#51907-056
FCC Petersburg - Low
Po Box 1000
Petersburg VA 23804

Mothers at US immigration center on hunger strike to protest year in custody - August 2016

Renee Feltz

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/15/immigration-women-hunger-strike-pennsylvania-berks-county?CMP=fb_us#link_time=1471282675

Female immigrants detained with their children at the Berks County Residential Center in Pennsylvania say they have been on hunger strike for more than a week to challenge government claims they are released after 20 days. By the end of August at least three families will have spent a full year in custody.

"On many occasions our children have thought about suicide because of the confinement and desperation that is caused by being here," read a letter 22 mothers sent last week to Department of Homeland Security secretary Jeh Johnson.

The protest comes after Johnson recently defended the Obama administration's controversial family detention practices by telling reporters it "is ensuring the average length of stay at these facilities is 20 days or less". Twenty days is the maximum time suggested in a federal order that limits how long children can be detained by immigration authorities to three to five days, except "in the event of an emergency influx."

In their letter to Johnson, the mothers at Berks accuse the government of "making arguments that are false" and cite the federal order, saying "our children are entitled to freedom according to the case of Flores, and still they are here with us."

The children held at Berks range from age two to 16 years old. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would not comment on why the detainees have not been released within 20 days, saying that due to privacy laws it is prohibited from discussing specific cases.

Advocates supporting the hunger strike say 26 mothers were participating. ICE says about four continue to refuse to eat. Many of those participating in the protest fled gang violence in Honduras and El Salvador and believe they will be killed if sent home. One woman escaped with her seven-year-old son after receiving repeated death threats because her partner, and son's father, cooperated with local police in reporting their activities.

Those who have largely exhausted their legal options for remaining in the country are often transferred to Berks from two family detention centers in Texas and soon processed for removal. But last year, 28 families held there won a stay of removal after the American Civil Liberties Union argued they have a right for a federal judge to review their asylum hearings. In the meantime, they have been detained much longer than the standard of 20 days ICE says it is aiming for.

"ICE thinks of them as an aberration because they are fighting their cases," said attorney Bridget Cambria, whose clients at Berks were denied asylum after fleeing violence and persecution in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. She says their denial of their asylum claim followed a cursory interview by a border official.

Officials perform interviews with newly arriving migrants to determine whether they have a “credible fear” of returning to their home country that would warrant consideration for asylum. But having just arrived in the country disoriented and traumatized, Cambria said they were not well positioned to accurately express their fear of returning to their countries, and that this was later used against them in an asylum hearing.

“If you have a child subjected to abuse, or a mother who is a victim of violence, sometimes this is not something they can talk about with a person the day after they cross the border,” Cambria argued. “We often sit with them for hours at a time and you would be amazed at what starts to come out.”

The ACLU case is now pending in federal court and may end up before the supreme court in a process that could take another year. As it winds its way through the system, lawyers argue their clients should be released from Berks. “It is becoming increasingly hard to conclude that there is not some punitive element to keeping these women in detention simply because they exercised their right to bring a constitutional test case,” said Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project.

Psychologists and pediatricians who visited Berks for a report produced by Human Rights First say the long-term confinement led to “symptoms of depression, behavioral regression and anxiety” in children they observed. “What we saw among the adults were signs of fear and of unknowing what would happen to them next,” said Dr Alan Shapiro, who visited Berks for the report. “These feelings of helplessness and hopelessness hurt their ability to mitigate the stress on their children.”

In a statement, ICE said Berks “is staffed with medical and mental health care providers who monitor, diagnose and treat residents” and “also uses outside, private medical/mental health care service providers as needed”. But Shapiro has suggested a follow-up visit since the hunger strike was launched, and says the American Academy of Pediatrics “is very concerned about the health and welfare of children and families in immigration detention”.

In the last week officials released two families from Berks who are not part of the ACLU’s lawsuit. One had been held there with her three-year-old son since November. “They were in the exact same legal position as the mothers they won’t release,” said her lawyer Carol Anne Donohoe, who has other clients still inside. “It shows their detention is arbitrary, not mandatory.”

Why prisoners across the country have gone on strike - September 2016

Kanyakrit Vongkiatkajorn

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/09/prison-strike-in-mate-labor-work>

Following a call for a nationwide prison strike that began September 9, inmates in at least three states have organized work stoppages or staged protests in support of improving their wages and working conditions. Here’s the latest on the strike and the issues behind it:

How many prisoners are on strike?

The strike’s organizers had originally expected prisoners in 21 states to participate. So far, they say that prisoners in at least 29 prisons in 12 states have launched strikes and more than 24,000 prisoners have missed work.

- In Florida, protests erupted in four facilities last week, and a small group of inmates refused to follow orders at one facility, according to a Florida Department of Corrections spokesperson. The prisons were placed on lockdown, but resumed normal operations on September 12.

- Prisoners at the Kinross Correctional Facility in Kincheloe, Michigan, refused to report for kitchen work, forcing correctional officers to provide bagged food for lunch and breakfast the next day, says Chris Gautz, a Michigan Department of Corrections spokesman. Four hundred prisoners marched peacefully in the yard for several hours, but after a common room area was damaged, the facility went on lockdown, says Gautz. Around 150 prisoners who are considered strike organizers are being transferred to other prisons in the state.

- In Atmore, Alabama, inmates at the William C. Holman Correctional Institute facility did not report to work on September 9, but returned to work on the next day, according to the Alabama Department of Corrections.

- In South Carolina, inmates released a list of demands that included a call for fair wages, restarting GED classes, and “more meaningful” rehabilitation programs.

- In Alabama, inmates who are part of the Free Alabama Movement, an organization that helped launch the strike, released a “freedom bill” that called for the abolishment of free labor from prisoners.

The strike’s organizers and supporters on the outside say they are still working to confirm reports of protests as information trickles in. Prisoners on lockdown have no access to phone and visitation. So far, no prisons or correctional departments have announced changes as a result of the strike, but ongoing lockdowns “could potentially be the breaking point,” says Cole Dorsey, an organizer with the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee. “They can’t run the prison just with guards alone. That will be the important part.”

Cumberland, MD - August 2016

Slut comrades- it's your girl Salena A. Rodriguez giving an update on the capitalist pigs. I took a direct action when the capitalist pig spit in a bag lunch and gave it to me, I ended up assaulting the capitalist fucking pig. By the way, the pork chop's name is officer B. Self, and come to find out, the pork-chop officer named B. Self has two family members that work here, one is a captain and the other was a major. I was placed on staff alert and stripped of all my property. I was assaulted and taken out in the hallway to a strip cage while the pork chop officers and Lieutenant did a hands-on strip search afterward. I was placed in a hold cell 16 days and forced to sleep on the steel bed and eat a seg log, which is all your food mixed together and I was denied showers, recreation, water, and toilet paper for 16 days. It was so bad that my enemy felt bad and wrote the courts about my mistreatment, and the courts gave me a case number and told me I got 28 days to file a complaint or the case was dismissed. While I was on the staff alert they locked the windows and took my asthma medication, as well as my stomach medication and due to the extreme heat, I felt like I was suffocating, and due to the extreme stomach pain, I attempted suicide twice. The on call psychologist, Laura Wilson (Booth) told them to let me die, so the pigs had the nurse clean my wound and put me back in the holding cell where I was and refused to put me on suicide watch. The LCPC in charge of housing unit one, Lauren Beitzel, never checked on me, she just lied and stated I refused my psychologist pass. The senator and congresswoman for Maryland was contacted by an inmate workman about my situation. I was even written a false conduct report and given an additional 180 days on punitives segregation, where I had been for a year already and my release from punitive segregation is June 8, 2018. Plus, I have 150 days on cell restriction, meaning 24 hour lockdown 6 days a week. I have filed the complaint with the courts which is now a lawsuit, plus I filed another lawsuit with the courts due to being set-up by the pigs in a capitalist suit. They set me up to be assaulted by two bloods and then asked me if I was willing to take a cellmate.

Peace, love, respect, unity and honor

Selena A. Rodriguez
NBCI 1400 McMullen Hwy SW
Cumberland MD 21502

Prison strike organizers to protest food giant Aramark - January 2017

BY Kamala Kelkar <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/prison-strike-protest-aramark/>

The people who organized the country's biggest prison strike against what they call modern-day slavery have planned their next target: corporate food service giant Aramark.

The \$8.65 billion company is one of the country's largest employers and serves hot dogs, burgers, sandwiches and other food to more than 100 million people a year at hospitals, sports stadiums, amphitheaters, schools and other facilities. It also provides meals for more than 500 correctional facilities across the country and has been the subject of complaints about maggots and rocks, sexual harassment, drug trafficking and other employee misconduct.

While Aramark says these allegations are inaccurate, on Jan. 14, leaders of the Free Alabama Movement, which led a national prison labor strike that began on Sept. 9, will bus from Alabama to Washington, D.C., to join a civil rights march and protest the company. "They are the biggest benefactors of prisoners," said the movement's spokesman Pastor Kenneth Glasgow. "And they have a history of neglecting prisoners, serving bad food, not enough food, or undernourished food ... this is why we have chosen to boycott."

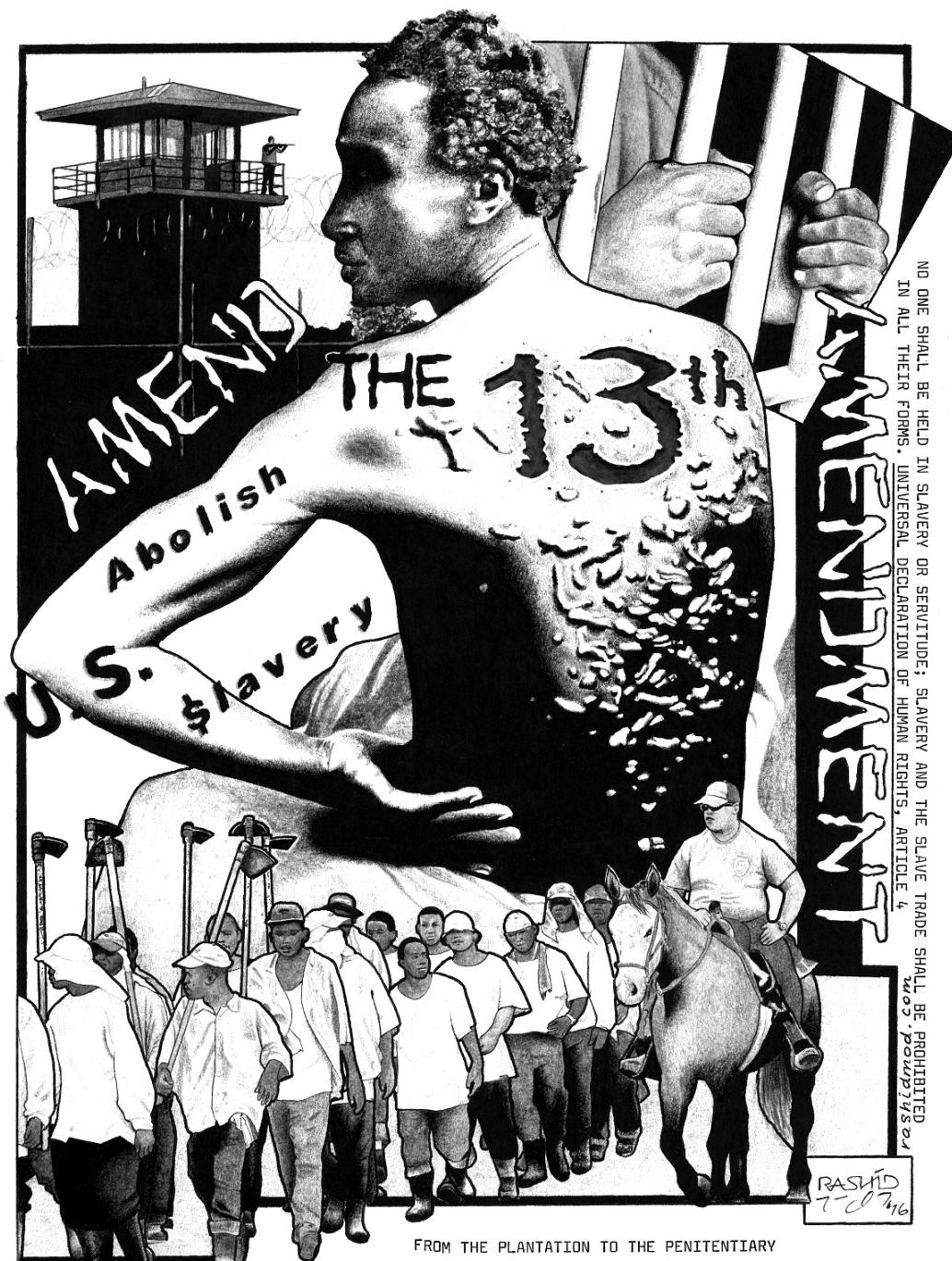
Siddique Abdullah Hasan, an inmate on death row at Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown, Ohio, for his role in the state's worst-ever prison riot in 1993, has gone on hunger strikes because he said Aramark food was cold and the quantities were half the appropriate serving. Prison authorities agreed to address the issues after a month of starvation, he said. Now he is pushing for halal meals.

"They have no accountability," he said. "This is part of the increasing privatization of prisons and ancillary services that we've seen over the past few decades." — David Fathi, ACLU Glasgow said inmates across the nation are also planning to stand in solidarity with the movement's march on Jan. 14, by refusing to work — again.

[...] "It used to be that prison food was prepared and served by [government] employees, sometimes with prison workers assisting," said David Fathi, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project. "This is part of the increasing privatization of prisons and ancillary services that we've seen over the past few decades."

The shift toward privatization has been called a "prison-industrial complex" by the Free Alabama Movement and justice reform advocates, who add that it has created an economic incentive to keep inmates in jail. And on Sept. 9, the anniversary of the Attica takeover, thousands of inmates across dozens of state prisons went on strike to rail against it.

There were reports of pepper spray, tear gas and zip ties at Kinross Correctional Facility in Michigan before hundreds of people believed to be involved were transferred to other facilities. Inmates across the country were also censored, prevented from receiving newspapers and put in isolation. "That was the first wave," Glasgow said. "This is the second wave."



FROM THE PLANTATION TO THE PENITENTIARY

Illustration by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, frequent contributor to the San Francisco Bay View newspaper who is incarcerated at the Clements Unit in Amarillo, Texas.

In 2015, the state of Michigan canceled a controversial, \$145 million, three-year contract with the company. In addition to complaints about the quality of food, more than 100 Aramark employees were banned from prison grounds for inappropriate behavior, according to state officials. That year, a judge also found an Aramark supervisor guilty of trying to arrange an assault on an inmate.

Aramark spokesperson Karen Cutler said in an email that rumors about the quality of food were planted by opponents of outsourcing and inmates. "There were three confirmed cases of sabotage caused by inmates using maggots in Ohio, and one in Michigan," Cutler said.

Saying her remark was a "blatant lie," Hasan said he knew a prisoner who brought maggots to the attention of correctional officers. Cutler also said, without referencing the case about the Aramark supervisor, that employee misconduct occurs regularly in most positions at every correctional facility in the country. "Aramark has been a valued partner to the corrections industry for nearly 40 years, helping 500 facilities around the country maintain safe, stable environments for millions of offenders, officers and staff every day," she said. "Our dedication to quality and service have made us a leader in our industry for more than 75 years."

Fathi said he did not think Aramark was any better or worse than other prison food companies, nor does the ACLU have a stance on a prospective campaign against it. But he said that the Free Alabama Movement's complaints illustrate the core problems of privatizing prison services.

"It's a monopoly and the consumers have ultimately zero choice," he said. "In the outside world, a company that provides bad service, whose employees commit misdeeds, will eventually go out of business." Regardless, he said he will be paying attention on Jan. 14. "I think many of us were surprised by the magnitude of and coordination exhibited by the prison strike last year, so it would not surprise me if this turned out to be quite widespread," he said. "Time will tell."